



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

December 28, 2006

For immediate release

- 1. DNR accepting applications for water quality project funding**
- 2. EPC to okay contracts at January 2 meeting**

DNR ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR WATER QUALITY PROJECT FUNDING

MEDIA CONTACT: Ubbo Agena at (515) 281-6402 or Becky Schwiete at (515) 242-6196.

DES MOINES — Projects aimed at improving Iowa's water quality can now apply for 2007 funding from the DNR.

Applications for fiscal year (FY) 2007 Section 319 funding from the DNR are due by April 16 and must address nonpoint source pollution problems that are adversely affecting Iowa's water quality. Nonpoint source pollution occurs when rainfall or snowmelt washes pollutants into lakes, rivers and groundwater. While most projects will be watershed-based, projects may also be designed to address problems on a statewide, regional or county basis.

Of the funding DNR will receive from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for FY 2007, priority will be given to projects addressing water bodies included on the state's list of impaired waters. Watershed projects receiving funding will be required to report on reductions in sediment and nutrient delivery achieved from project activities, such as implementation of conservation practices. FY2007 funds will likely be available to projects in January 2008.

Some changes have been made to this year's application materials. More information is available on the DNR Web site at www.iowadnr.gov/water/nonpoint/app2.html.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), through its Section 319 program, provides grant funds to states to implement nonpoint source pollution control programs and projects. In Iowa, the designated lead agency for the 319 program is the DNR.

###

EPC TO OKAY CONTRACTS AT JANUARY 2 MEETING

Media Contact: Karen Grimes at (515) 281-5135.

DES MOINES – The Environmental Protection Commission will review contracts for water quality monitoring, low interest loans and waste management projects at their regular meeting on Jan. 2.

A million-dollar contract for water quality monitoring is one of the first items commissioners will be asked to approve. Funding will be used primarily to assess nutrients, bacteria and water chemistry in Iowa streams, wetlands and lakes. The contract would also pay for some staff positions and training citizen water quality monitors.

Commissioners will also be asked to approve a quarterly update to the intended use plan for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund. Loans totaling \$7.1 million are requested in the update for five new water supply construction projects and three new planning and design loans.

In other action, commissioners will be asked to approve eight solid waste projects selected from 21 proposals. Funding of \$835,933 is available in a combination of forgivable loans, zero interest loans and three percent loans. Selected projects range from refuse-derived fuel to plastic pallet manufacturing equipment and a hospital waste reduction project.

The meeting will be held at the DNR Air Quality Building, 7900 Hickman Road in Urbandale. The meeting begins at 10 a.m. and public participation is scheduled for 10:30 p.m. The EPC has an appointment at 3 p.m. with Garrett Corporation/Delta Industries, Ltd.

Prestage Farms of Iowa has withdrawn construction permit applications for confinement operations in Cass and Adair Counties, causing the hearings with the counties to be cancelled.

The complete agenda follows:

- Approval of Agenda
- Approval of Minutes
- Director's Remarks
- Contract - University of Iowa Hygienic Laboratory - Ambient Water Quality Monitoring and Laboratory Services

- Contract - University of Iowa- Improvements to Iowa Geological Survey Facilities
- Solid Waste Alternatives Program - Recommendations
- Sustainable Computer Recycling Initiative - Recommendations
- Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund - 2007 Intended Use Plan Third Quarter Update
- Proposed Contested Case Decision - Edward and Jordan Branstad, Monroe (Monty) Branstad
- Referrals to the Attorney General
- Proposed Rule - Chapter 64 --- Wastewater Construction and Operation Permits
- Proposed Rule - Chapter 43 - Water Supplies - Design and Operation
- Contract amendment- Iowa Department of Public Health - Correction of effective date
- Notice of Intended Action: Chapters 28, Update to Ambient Air Quality Standards
- Notice of Intended Action: Chapter 22 (Air Construction Permitting Exemption)
- Notice of Intended Action: Chapter 22, Special Requirements for Visibility Protection
- Monthly Reports
- General Discussion

More information about the agenda items can be found on the DNR Web site under Commissions and Boards at www.iowadnr.gov.

The members of the commission are Jerry Peckumn, chair, Jefferson; Francis Thicke, vice chair, Fairfield; Lisa Davis-Cook, secretary, West Des Moines; Donna Buell, Spirit Lake; Mary Gail Scott, Cedar Rapids; David Petty, Eldora; Suzanne Morrow, Storm Lake; Henry Marquard, Muscatine and Darrell Hanson, Manchester. The director of the DNR is Jeff Vonk.